Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2007 provides assessment of the scientific literature published in the international scientific journals on various aspects of climate change *inter alia* science, impact, adaptation, vulnerability and mitigation. The report indicates increased risk of move intense, more frequent and longer lasting heat waves, summer dryness indicates greater risk of drought and intense precipitation and flooding which are known to cause adverse impacts on human beings.

(c) and (d) The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released on 30th June, 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change. The National Action Plan outlines steps that will enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path.

The National Action Plan outlines eight Missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change. Eight National Missions form the core of the National Action Plan, representing multi-pronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change.

Setting up of Geological Survey and Research Centre at Darjeeling

†1855. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to set up Geological Survey and Research Centre at Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for protection of the species reaching extinction and species which are found in hill areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to the Geological Survey of India, there is no proposal to set up any Geological Survey and Research Centre at Darjeeling.

(c) Several measures have been undertaken to conserve the flora and fauna including the endangered species and also those found in hill areas. These measures include the following:

(i) Survey and inventorization of floral and faunal resources are carried out by Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India. The Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring purposes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) A Protected Area Network of 99 National Parks and 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 43 Conservation Reserves, 4 Community Reserves covering more than 4.75% of the geographical area of the country has been created for in-situ conservation of habitats and ecosystems.

(iii) Sixteen biodiversity rich areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems.

(iv) Species oriented conservation programmes like Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Project Snow Leopard, etc. are implemented. In addition, 14 species including marine species have been identified for their recovery.

(v) To complement in-situ conservation efforts, ex-situ conservation of rate, endangered, threatened and endemic species has been undertaken through botanic gardens, zoos, gene banks etc.

(vi) Under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, State-wise list of species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction alongwith guidelines to prohibit and regulate their collection and rehabilitate and preserve these species has been proposed.

(vii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its parts and products has been established.

Polluted rivers

†1856. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to clean the water of big and polluted rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the rivers whose water is not considered potable and fit for bathing;

(d) whether Government has prepared a plan to make the water pollution free; and

(e) if so, the outline of the plan, the estimated expenditure for the plan and by when this plan would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The efforts towards conservation of rivers started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Subsequently, GAP Phase-II (GAP-II) was initiated which included the tributaries of the river Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar. The Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.